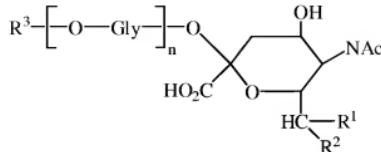


**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (currently amended): A compound comprising a polysaccharide having at least two sialic acid units linked 2.8 and/or 2.9 to one another and having a pendant moiety linked to at least one terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide-groups, vinylsulphone-groups, N-iodoacetamide-groups and orthopyridyl disulphide groups.
2. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
3. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1 or claim 2 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the non-reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
4. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to any preceding~~ of claim 1 in which the pendant moiety further comprises an alkanediyl group-alkylene and/or [[an]] arylene group and a linkage optionally in combination with a and/or an oxalkylene [[or]] and/or oligooxa-alkylene group which is a secondary amine linkage, a hydrazone, an alkyl hydrazide linkage or a peptide linkage and/or oligopeptide.
5. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to any preceding~~ of claim 1 in which the functional group is N-maleimido.
6. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to any preceding~~ of claim 1 in which the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid, preferably consisting substantially only of sialic acid units.

7. (currently amended): [[A]] The compound according to of claim 1 which has the formula



in which one of the following groups of definitions apply wherein:

[[i]] (a) R<sup>1</sup> is H or -CHOHCH<sub>2</sub>OH, and R<sup>2</sup> is OH; [[and]]

R<sup>3</sup> is [[either]] -CH<sub>2</sub>CHR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup> or -CH(CH<sub>2</sub>OH)CHR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup> in which wherein R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> together represent =N-NR<sup>6</sup> or R<sup>4</sup> is H and R<sup>5</sup> is -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> in which R<sup>6</sup> is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R<sup>7</sup> is H, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group; or

[[ii]] (b) R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together represent =N-NR<sup>6</sup>=N-NHR<sup>6</sup> or R<sup>1</sup> is H and R<sup>2</sup> is -NR<sup>6</sup>R<sup>7</sup> in which R<sup>6</sup> is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R<sup>7</sup> is H or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group;

[[Gly-O]] O-Gly is a glycosyl (saccharide) group;

n is 0 or more 1-50; and

Ac is acetyl.

8. (currently amended): A compound according to of claim 7 in which each Gly each O-Gly is a sialic acid unit.

9. (currently amended): A compound comprising a polysialylated protein with at least one [[free]] cysteine unit [[and,]] linked through a thioester bond to the side chain of the cysteine unit, with a polysialic acid, through a moiety joined at one or each at least one terminal units of the unit of a polysialic acid.

10. (currently amended): A compound according to any preceding of claim 1 wherein in which the polysaccharide has at least 2, preferably at least 10, more preferably at least 50 saccharide units, preferably sialic acid units 2,8 and/or 2,9 linked to one another.

11. (currently amended): A process in which a to prepare the compound polysaccharide comprising at least one terminal unit which is derived from a sialic acid unit is reacted with of claim 1 which comprises reacting a heterobifunctional reagent having a first functional group selected from N- maleimido-groups, vinylsulphone-groups, N-iodoacetamide-groups N-iodoacetamido and orthopyridyl disulphide groups and a second functional group different from the first functional group whereby to a polysaccharide having at least two sialic acid units linked 2,8 and/or 2,9 to one another wherein the said second functional group reacts with a terminal sialic acid derivative unit to form a covalent bond therewith and form a functional polysaccharide suitable for selective conjugation to a thiol group.

12. (currently amended): A process according to of claim 11 in which the said second functional group is a nucleophilic group, preferably hydrazine.

13. (currently amended): A process according to claim 11 of claim 12 in which the terminal unit of the polysaccharide has a carbonyl group which reacts with said nucleophilic group.

14. (currently amended): A process according to of claim 11 in which the said second functional group is an electrophilic group, preferably an N-alkoxycarbonyl-imide or carbodiimide moiety.

15. (currently amended): A process according to of claim 14 in which the terminal unit of the polysaccharide has an amine group which reacts with said electrophilic group, preferably to form a peptide or a urethane linkage.

16. (currently amended): A process ~~according to any of claims 11 to 15 of claim 11~~ in which the reagent comprises ~~a bifunctional~~ ~~an~~ organic group linking the first and second functional groups.

17. (currently amended): A process ~~according to~~ ~~of~~ claim 16 in which the ~~bifunctional~~ organic group ~~comprises is selected from a C<sub>2-18</sub> alkanediyl group a C<sub>2-18</sub>-alkylene, [[an]] arylene group, [[an]] oligo peptide or [[and an]] oligo(alkoxy)alkyl group.~~

18. (currently amended): A process ~~according to any of claims 11 to 17 of claim 11~~ in which the first functional group is a N-maleimide group.

19. (currently amended): A process ~~according to~~ ~~of~~ claim 11 in which the reagent has the ~~general~~ formula



in which:

X is [[a]] N-maleimido, N-iodoacetamido, S-vinylsulphonyl or S-orthopyridyldisulphide group,

R is ~~alkane diyl comprises alkylene, arylene or aralkylene alkarylene, alkylene-oxaalkylene, or alkylene-oligooxa-alkylene or alkyl oligopeptidyl alkyl group or oligopeptidyl;~~ and

Y is ~~a hydrazide hydrazine, an amine or N-hydroxysuccinimide group.~~

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended): A process ~~according to any one of claims 11 to 20 in which the to prepare the polysialylated protein of claim 9 which comprises reacting a maleimido-functional polysialic acid is reacted with a polypeptide or a protein having at least one free unprotected-Cys unit-cysteine whereby the maleimide group forms a thioether linkage with the thiol group of-a-Cys unit to form a polysialylated polypeptide or protein said cysteine.~~

22. (currently amended): A process in which a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 is reacted to prepare a polysialylated protein which comprises reacting the compound of claim 1 with a polypeptide or a protein having at least one free and unprotected Cys unit cysteine whereby the said functional group forms a thioether linkage with the thiol group of a Cys unit to form a conjugate of the polysaccharide with the polypeptide or protein said cysteine.

23. (new): The compound of claim 6 wherein said polysaccharide consists essentially of sialic acid units and said pendant moiety.

24. (new): The compound of claim 10 wherein the polysaccharide has at least 50 saccharide units.

25. (new): The process of claim 12 wherein the nucleophilic group is hydrazine.

26. (new): The process of claim 14 wherein the electrophilic group is an N-alkyl oxycarbonyl amide or carbodiimide.

27. (new): The process of claim 15 wherein a peptide or urethane linkage is formed.

28. (new): The process of claim 11 wherein the polysaccharide comprises at least 10 sialic acid units.

29. (new): The process of claim 28 wherein the polysaccharide has at least 50 sialic acid units.